

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a variable output device having an operating shaft adapted to be displaced under an external force and changing the
5 output in accordance with the displacement of the operating shaft, the mechanism comprising:

a mounting unit for mounting the variable output device thereon;

at least an operating unit for receiving an operation
10 of the user and transmitting the operation as the external force to the operating shaft;

a holding member arranged in opposed relation with the mounting unit with the variable output device interposed therebetween; and

15 an elasticity applier for elastically urging the operating unit;

wherein the variable output device is mounted on the mounting unit with the operating shaft displaceable;

wherein the operating unit is mounted on the
20 operating shaft relatively movably along direction of the axis of the operating shaft, on the one hand, and in an operatively interlocked fashion along the direction of displacement of the operating shaft, on the other hand;

wherein the operating unit is urged elastically by
25 the elasticity applier in the direction away from the variable output device;

wherein the holding member is provided with an operating hole, the holding member being arranged at a position in opposed relation with the mounting unit with
30 the variable output device and the operating unit interposed therebetween; and

wherein the operating unit elastically urged by the elasticity applier is brought into contact with the

peripheral edge portion of the operating hole of the holding member in opposed relation with the operating hole.

2. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a variable output device as claimed in claim 1,

5 wherein a buffer member is interposed between the operating unit and the peripheral edge portion of the operating hole of the holding member.

3. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a variable output device as claimed in claim 1,

10 wherein the operating shaft has mounted thereon an elasticity applier seat relatively movably along the direction of the axis of the operating shaft on the one hand and in an operatively interlocked fashion along the direction of displacement of the operating shaft on the
15 other hand, the elasticity applier seat supporting the elasticity applier, and

wherein the operating unit is mounted on the elasticity applier seat relatively movably along the direction of the axis of the operating shaft, on the one
20 hand, and in the operatively interlocked fashion along the direction of displacement of the operating shaft, on the other hand.

4. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a variable output device as claimed in claim 1,

25 wherein the elasticity applier is a coil spring.

5. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a variable output device as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the elasticity applier is a corrugated washer.

6. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a
30 variable output device as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the elasticity applier is a coil spring and the elasticity applier seat has a cylinder surrounding the elasticity applier.

7. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a variable output device as claimed in claim 6,

wherein a taper for preventing the elasticity applier from being caught is formed at each corner of the cylinder contacted by the elasticity applier.

8. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a variable output device as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the variable output device includes a case with the operating shaft projected from an end thereof and a protective member for covering the end portion of the operating shaft on the case side, and

wherein the elasticity applier seat is brought into contact with the protective member.

9. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a variable output device as claimed in claim 1,

wherein a metal sheet is provided on the surface of the operating unit in contact with the elasticity applier, and the elasticity applier is brought into contact with the metal sheet.

10. An anti-malfunction mechanism for at least a variable output device as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the operating shaft is displaced in the rotational direction.

11. A single-unit video camera recorder comprising at least a variable output device having an operating shaft adapted to be displaced under an external force and changing the output in accordance with the displacement of the operating shaft, and an anti-malfunction mechanism for the variable output device, the mechanism including:

a mounting unit for mounting the variable output device thereon;

at least an operating unit for receiving an operation by the user and transmitting the operation as the external

force to the operating shaft;

a holding member arranged in opposed relation with the mounting unit with the variable output device interposed therebetween; and

5 at least an elasticity applier for elastically urging the operating unit;

wherein the variable output device is mounted on the mounting unit with the operating shaft displaceable;

10 wherein the operating unit is mounted on the operating shaft relatively movably along the direction of the axis of the operating shaft, on the one hand, and in an operatively interlocked fashion along the direction of displacement of the operating shaft, on the other hand;

15 wherein the operating unit is urged elastically by the elasticity applier in the direction away from the variable output device;

20 wherein the holding member is provided with an operating hole, the holding member being arranged at a position in opposed relation with the mounting unit with the variable output device and the operating unit interposed therebetween; and

25 wherein the operating unit elastically urged by the elasticity applier is brought into contact with the peripheral edge portion of the operating hole of the holding member in opposed relation with the operating hole.